

It's Not Fair

The story in the Gospel doesn't sound fair. Some people worked from early morning until evening; others joined them at the end of the workday. But they all got the same pay. How can that be fair? Perhaps fairness isn't the point of the story. But then, what is?

The landowner, symbolizing God, hired the workers "after agreeing with them for the usual daily wage" (Matthew 20:2). If the earliest workers presumed that the agreed-upon wage would be changed, does that make God unfair? Those workers expected God to conform to what they considered just—and justice certainly is a very important value. However, God acted out of divine generosity—a quality we hope to benefit from but which might engender resentment when it is bestowed upon others.

As difficult as this story might seem to us, it raises some important questions about ourselves. Perhaps the story is not so much about God as it is about our

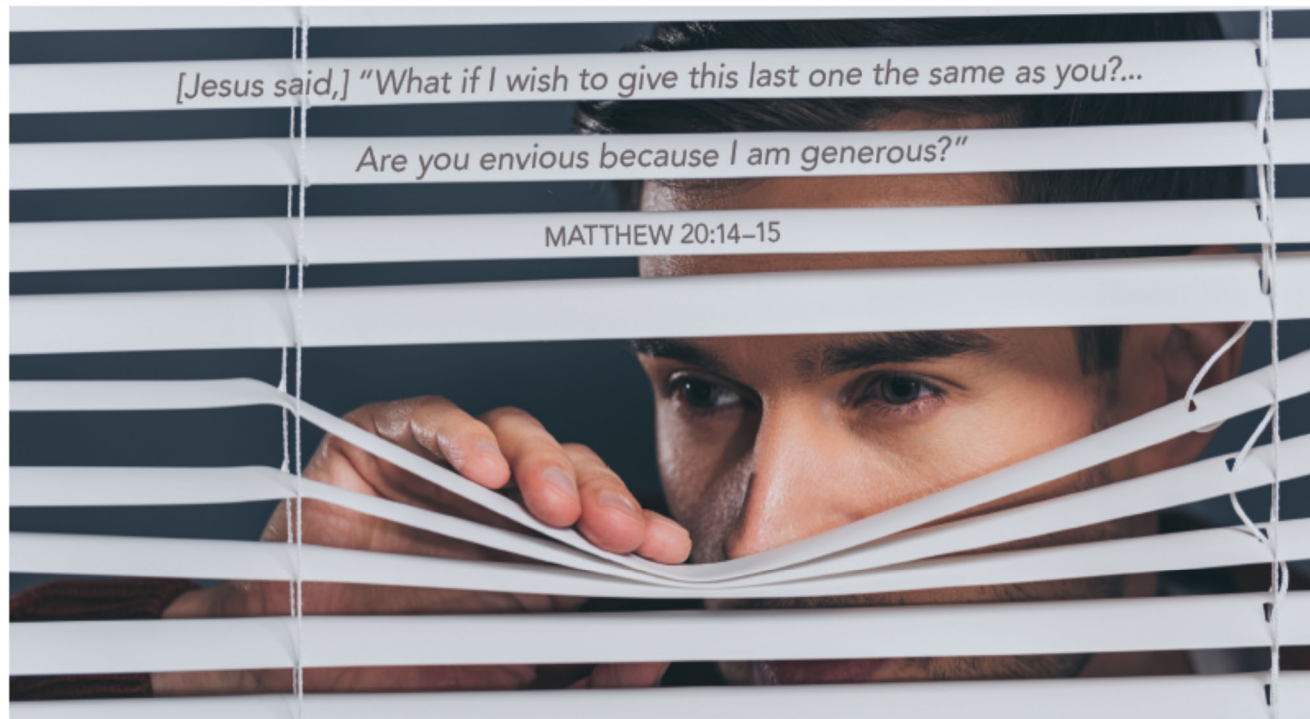
own attitudes. If we are faithful to what we believe is God's will for us, do we then presume that God owes us some kind of compensation? Do we expect that God will act according to our standards of retributive justice (this-for-that) rather than restorative justice (bring-it-back-to-life)? Do we resent God's graciousness toward others?

It is better that we all look to God for generosity than for justice. If we do, we will find, as the psalm response tells us: "The LORD is gracious and merciful" (Psalm 145:8).

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ✳ Do you resent others who seem to have an easier life? Does this lead you to question God's justice?
- ✳ Pray for the insight to realize that we earn nothing; everything is a gift from God.



LIONFIELD STUDIOS/SHUTTERSTOCK

Dear Padre,

My nephew has a chronic illness. My father is saving money to send to him so he can send it to a faith healer my dad has seen on TV. What can I say to my dad to convince him this is a bad idea?

The Catholic Church teaches that “those who dwell in heaven” regularly intercede with God on our behalf (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 956), and those intercessions include healings.

But living people with the power to instantly heal physical and mental ailments are rare. Some “healers” have accomplices who fake illness or disability and are then “cured” for the sole purpose of getting people to

give money to the “healer.” We should be very skeptical about these claims, because scam artists understand how easy it is to take advantage of people who are desperate for relief of pain or for the cure of a chronic or terminal illness.

One thing is certain: healing ultimately comes from God. Anyone who claims he or she is the healer and not simply God’s instrument is unquestionably a fraud.

Suggest to your dad that he talk to his priest before he sends any

money to the “healer.” The best way for him to help his grandson is to pray for him and donate any money he has saved to an organization that does research into the condition. That way, your father will be helping everyone with the condition—not just your nephew.

—Fr. Rick Potts, CSsR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



ROMOLO TAVANISHUTTI/ISTOCK

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Jesus wants to make us contemplate the gaze of that landowner: the gaze with which he looks upon each of the laborers searching for work and calls them to go to his vineyard....It is a gaze which calls, invites one to get up and begin a journey because he wants life for each of us.

—ANGELUS, SEPTEMBER 24, 2017



Calendar

Monday

SEPTEMBER 21
St. Matthew,
Apostle and
Evangelist
Eph 4:1–7, 11–13
Mt 9:9–13

Tuesday

SEPTEMBER 22
Weekday
Prv 21:1–6, 10–13
Lk 8:19–21

Wednesday

SEPTEMBER 23
St. Pius of Pietrelcina,
Priest
Prv 30:5–9
Lk 9:1–6

Thursday

SEPTEMBER 24
Weekday
Eccl 1:2–11
Lk 9:7–9

Friday

SEPTEMBER 25
Weekday
Eccl 3:1–11
Lk 9:18–22

Saturday

SEPTEMBER 26
Weekday
Eccl 11:9–12:8
Lk 9:43b–45

Sunday

SEPTEMBER 27
Twenty-sixth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Ez 18:25–28
Phil 2:1–11 or 2:1–5
Mt 21:28–32

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, September 19

8:00 a.m. + Jong Ku & Mong Ku Yi by The Proctor Family

5:00 p.m. + Margie Midas by Lori Ogozalek

Sunday, September 20

7:00 a.m. + George Baker by William & Kathleen Campenni

8:30 a.m. + Silvina & Rizalino Arroyo by Pacita Stewart

10:00 a.m. - Reena & Benny Job by The Job Family

11:30 a.m. + Garry Theriot by Jane & Paul Theriot

1:00 p.m. - Living and Deceased Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish

3:00 p.m. - Spanish Mass

5:00 p.m. + Casimir Rappa by Mary & David Kirby

Monday, September 21

6:30 a.m. - In Thanksgiving by Penia & Jorge

8:00 a.m. - Fr. Robert Wagner by The Oswald Family

Tuesday, September 22

6:30 a.m. + The Souls of the victims of the Coronavirus by Penia & Jorge

8:00 a.m. + Alex Kavounis by Mike & Jamie McCloskey

Wednesday, September 23

6:30 a.m. + Florencia Empinado by The Montalban Family

8:00 a.m. + Thomas J. Keppel by Tom Keppel

Thursday, September 24

6:30 a.m. + Auburn Stevens by Kathy Norman

8:00 a.m. + Eileen Cucco by The Harrigan Family

Friday, September 25

6:30 a.m. - Living and Deceased Franciscan Friars, Friends & Benefactors

8:00 a.m. - Living and Deceased Franciscan Friars, Friends & Benefactors

Saturday, September 26

8:00 a.m. + Milagros Abasial by The Montalban Family

5:00 p.m. + Maria Irene Wittmann by The SJS Class of 2020

Sunday, September 27

7:00 a.m. + Miguel C. Simpao by Ruth & John Lowry

8:30 a.m. + Jack McNulty by Mary & David Kirby

10:00 a.m. + Francis & Mary Knepler by Pat Knepler

11:30 a.m. + Sal Porter by Maryann Price

1:00 p.m. + Margaret Hayden by The Hayden Family

3:00 p.m. - Spanish Mass

- Living and Deceased Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish

5:00 p.m. + Peter P. Sabol, Sr. by Mary Kirby & Family

Collections: the weekend: September 13, 2020

Offertory in pew and mail in \$10,580

Faith Direct \$15,850

Total \$26,430

Catholic University \$734

Faith Direct \$1,906

Total \$2,640

Thank you for your continued support, prayers and kind generosity. Blessings for treasures given!

The Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi



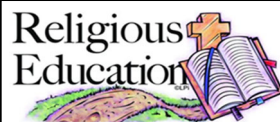
Saturday, October 3, 2020, 6:30 PM
Location: Church

The Transitus is the celebration of St. Francis of Assisi's passage from earthly life to everlasting life. This is a prayer service with readings and songs that reflect the life of St. Francis and recall the events surrounding his death. Please join us for this uniquely Franciscan event.



Blessing of Animals

Saturday, October 3, 2020, 12:00 PM
Location: Church Parking Lot
(The Blessing will be respectful of social Distancing. Details to follow.)



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We will be accepting late registrations up to September 30th. To register your child online, simply scan the QR code with your smartphone's camera or go to our parish website at www.sjcherndon.org and scroll down to the middle of the "Religious Education – CCD" page under the "FAITH FORMATION" tab.

ONLINE REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE!

2nd STUDENT TEXTBOOK PICKUP DAY
(Final Time)

Saturday, October 3rd

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

parking lot in front of the School Gym.



Blessings

The Parish staff wishes to thank the following parish ministries:

We thank **our parishioners** who participated in the Sunday and weekday Masses as we began the celebration of public Masses and for those parishioners who joined us via live stream. Be assured of our prayers for you and your family!

We thank **our parishioners** for their **support of the Sunday offertory via the use of Church envelopes and Faith Direct**. Know that we are grateful for your prayers and support.

We thank **the pastoral staff, Parish Advisory Council, Friars, ushers, lectors, music ministers and Knights of Columbus** for assisting us in implementing the SJC Reintegration Plan for the celebration of our public Masses this past weekend. O come Holy Spirit!

We thank the **Spanish Religious Education Staff, Catechists, volunteers, and parents for preparing the students for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation**. Saint John Paul II praised St. Juan Diego for his simple faith who said to the Virgin Mary, *"I am a nobody, I am a small rope, a tiny ladder, the tail end, a leaf."* Saint John Paul II called him a model of humility.

We thank **our parishioners** who participated in **That Man Is You (TMIY)** this past week as TMIY begins its third year here at SJC. A special thanks for the TMIY leadership and core team for their ministry.

We thank the **members of the SJC Ladies' Society and women of the parish** who are participating in their second year of **Walking with Purpose**. A special thanks for the WWP leadership team for their ministry.

We thank **our parishioners** for your kindness and support of **Bethlehem Wood Carving Ministry**. Several have visited their website during this pandemic period. Support of this ministry assists the persecuted Christians in Bethlehem.

We thank **our parishioners** who have accessed **FORMED – the online Catholic Faith online platform for faith formation**. We invite all of our parishioners to enjoy this online service. To access **FORMED** for St. Joseph Catholic Church: go to Formed.org and enter the **Parish Code – VD4DT2**.

THANKS TO THE SPONSOR OF THE WEEK!

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SJC Reintegration of Public Masses Mass attendance

Peace and good! As we continue with our public Masses, we wanted to share with you that two of our Masses have experienced "full capacity" limits several times in the last few weeks. These two Masses are: 11:00 am and 3:00 pm.

As you plan to join us for the public Mass, please consider praying with us at the 5:00 pm on Saturday or Sunday, as well as, at 8:00 am on Sunday.

During this time and due to capacity limits at each parish, please do not plan to attend liturgies at any parish at which you are not registered. At this time, we have not implemented a sign up for Masses for our parishioners.

Bishop Burbidge has shared the following:

All the faithful of the Diocese of Arlington are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holydays of obligation until further notice.



Peace and good! I thank you for being a part of our St. Joseph faith community. I appreciate all that you do for our parish and community by sharing your God-given gifts of time, talent and treasure.

This autumn, as we continue to be faced with a pandemic, we thank you for your prayerful and financial support. During these summer months your generosity through the parish offertory envelope program and Faith Direct helps provide us with the consistent resources we need to operate our parish and ministries. Being part of this challenge is simple. Visit faith.direct/VA101.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family with your time, talents and treasure!

In the peace of Francis of Assisi,

Father Tom Father David Father Rufino

TMIY IS BACK!!
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS - VIRTUAL
MONDAYS & FRIDAYS - IN PERSON



That Man is You! Gives you the opportunity to go deeper in your faith.

TESTIMONIALS

I had wanted to change my life to align with Christ for years but lacked the persistence to stick with it. The men at TMIY encouraged me to have the strength to embrace the Gospel and the love and forgiveness that God has for me and for all of us.
~CJ, St. Joe's Parishioner since 2016

In this new social media paradigm that we are constantly exposed to, I lost sight of what was important. After attending TMIY last year, I am back on track with my faith and Jesus.
~MT, St. Joe's Parishioner since 1980.

Come join the Men of our Parish in enriching relationships with both Christ and family.

All men are invited to attend TMIY (Parish Hall A)
Monday evenings at 7 pm
Friday mornings at 6:30 a.m. OR
Wednesday 7 pm (Videoconference).

For more information contact Jack (jmatney@gmail.com) or Steve (mundts@aol.com).

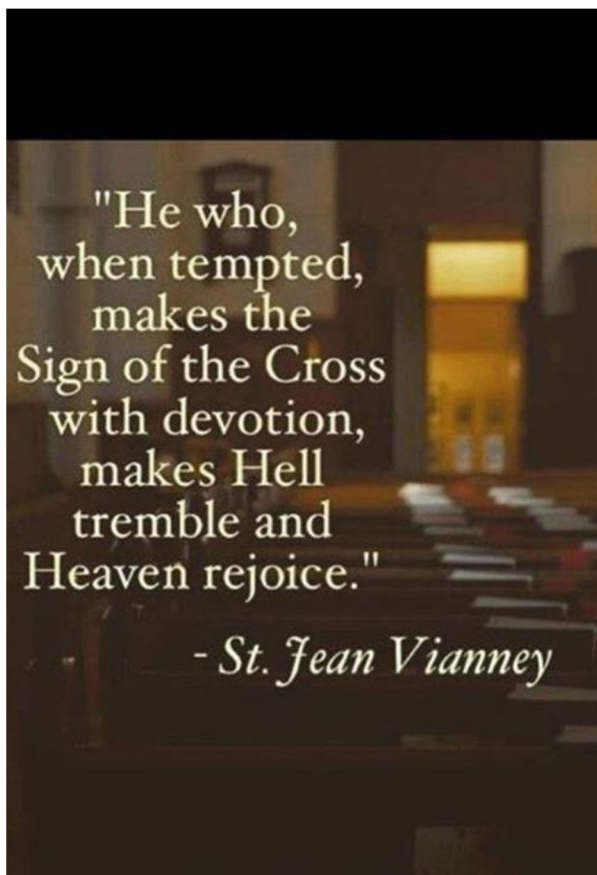


Please note that there will be no confessions or Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesday, September 23, 2020.



Great job! A shout out to our SJS teachers and staff for their dedication and faithfulness to their ministry of teaching! Know that you have the support and prayers of the friars, pastoral staff, and faith community!

Great job! Another deserving shout out to our SJC catechists and staff for their dedication and faithfulness to their ministry of catechesis! Know that you have the support and prayers of the friars, pastoral staff, and faith community!



Pope Pius XII Religious Medals Program



High school-aged BSA scouts (Boy Scouts, Ventures) are invited to join the Pope Pius XII religious medals program. This Catholic program focuses on occupational and vocational life choices in the context of Christian faith. We plan to start virtual meetings twice a month starting in early October. The program is open to all area scouts. Please contact John Vierow at jvierow@gmail.com by September 21.



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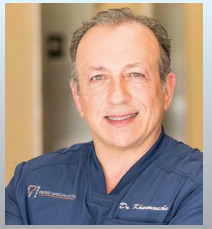
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